



Balnaves Operation Cessation

Carnarvon Basin, north-west WA
April 2016



Operations ceased at the Balnaves oil field, located in production licence WA-49-L within Commonwealth waters in March 2016, with the permanent departure of the Armada Claire Floating Production Storage Offloading (FPSO) vessel in early April 2016.

Activity

Woodside is seeking environmental approval to undertake petroleum activities to support the cessation of operations from the Balnaves oil field.

Activities are anticipated to be undertaken within a 6-12 month timeframe and in two phases.

Phase 1

- Ongoing preservation of the Balnaves subsea systems and riser turret mooring (RTM) (also known as disconnectable turret mooring) until RTM removal.
- Vessel monitoring, including subsea inspections by remotely operated vehicle of the Balnaves field and RTM.

Phase 2

- Disconnection and potential removal of flushed flowlines from manifolds and installation of pressure caps on the manifolds.
- Disconnection and potential removal of flushed risers, umbilicals and mooring lines from the RTM.
- Disconnection and removal of RTM and potential removal of anchors.
- Ongoing preservation of the Balnaves subsea systems until the wells are plugged and abandoned and remaining subsea infrastructure is decommissioned.

Plugging and abandonment of wells and the decommissioning of remaining subsea equipment will be subject to future Environment Plan submissions.

In accordance with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Cth)*, Woodside is required to submit an Environment Plan for the proposed activities.

Background

Woodside is operator of WA-49-L (65%). The other joint venture participant and titleholder is Kufpec Australia Pty Ltd (35%).

The Balnaves production system was designed to operate via two subsea production wells connected to a single manifold tied back to the Armada Claire FPSO.

Activity Location

The Balnaves infrastructure is located in production licence WA-49-L in Commonwealth waters. The Balnaves oil field is about 48 km north-west of the Montebello Islands and 75 km north-west of Varanus Island (see *Figure 1*).

Water depths over the field vary from 110 m to 160 m.

Environmental Management

Woodside has a long history of successfully conducting activities in an offshore environment.

Woodside has undertaken an environmental risk assessment for the proposed activities, considering timing, duration, location and potential environmental impacts arising from the activities. As a result, a number of mitigation and management measures will be implemented during the proposed activities, including:

- Measures will be taken to protect marine fauna and ecosystems from vessel activities and to prevent vessel collisions or groundings;
- Routine discharges will meet legal requirements. Other wastes will be transported to shore for appropriate recycling/disposal;
- Appropriate surveillance of preserved subsea equipment will be maintained;
- Spill response plans, equipment and materials will be in place and maintained;
- Procedures and equipment that will be used to prevent spills to the environment; and
- Vessels will be assessed and managed as appropriate to manage the risk of introduced marine species.

Environmental Approvals

Environment Plans for the proposed activities will be submitted to the NOPSEMA for acceptance in accordance with the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (Cth)*.

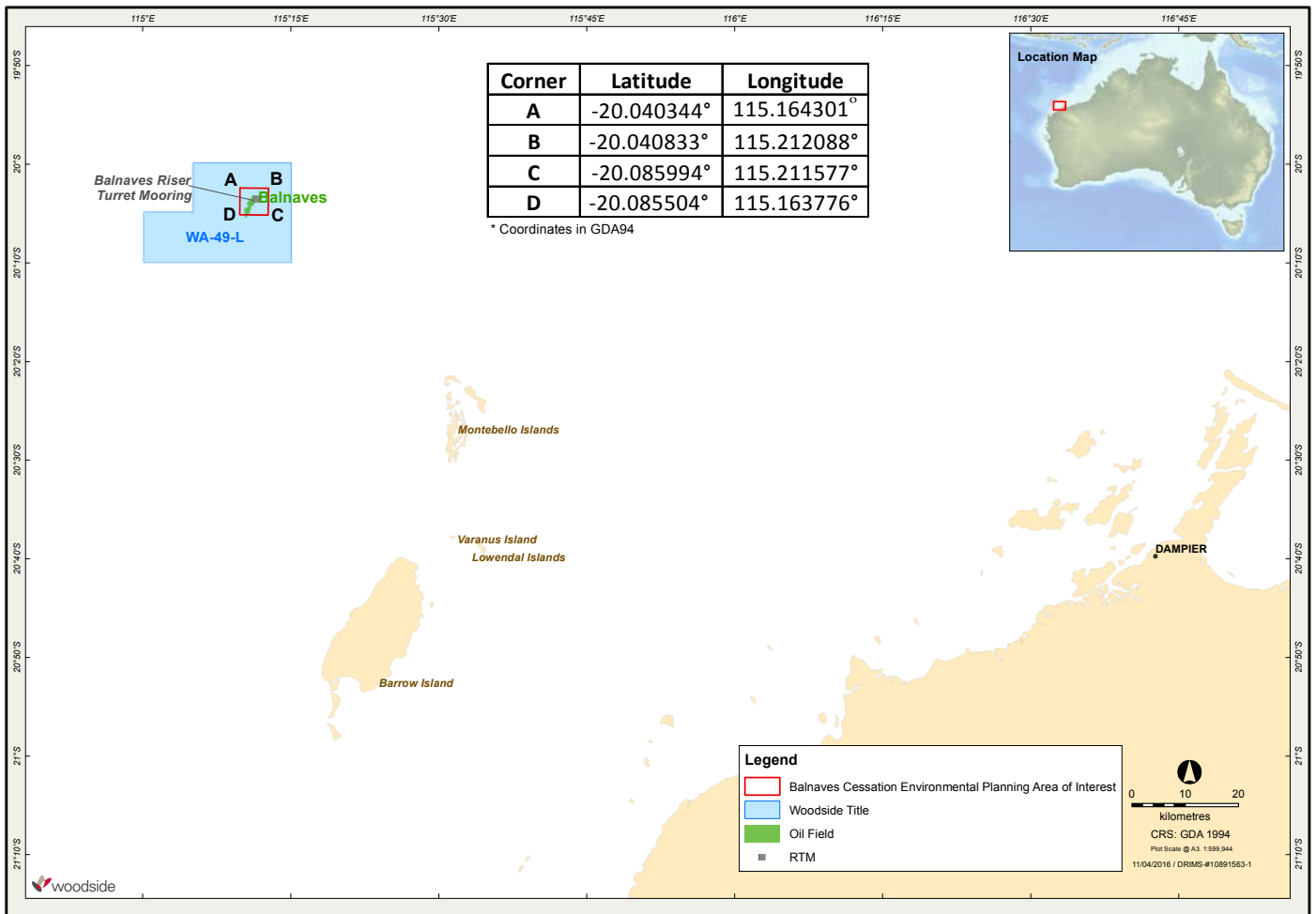


Figure 1: Location map for Balnaves field and RTM.

Providing Feedback

If you would like to comment on the proposed activities outlined in this fact sheet or would like additional information, please contact Woodside.

Kate McCallum
Corporate Affairs Adviser
Woodside Energy Ltd

P: (08) 9348 5476
E: kate.mccallum@woodside.com.au

Toll free: 1800 654 249

Please note that stakeholder feedback will be communicated to NOPSEMA as required under legislation. Woodside will communicate any material changes to the proposed activity to affected stakeholders as they arise. Proposed timing for the activity may be subject to change.

